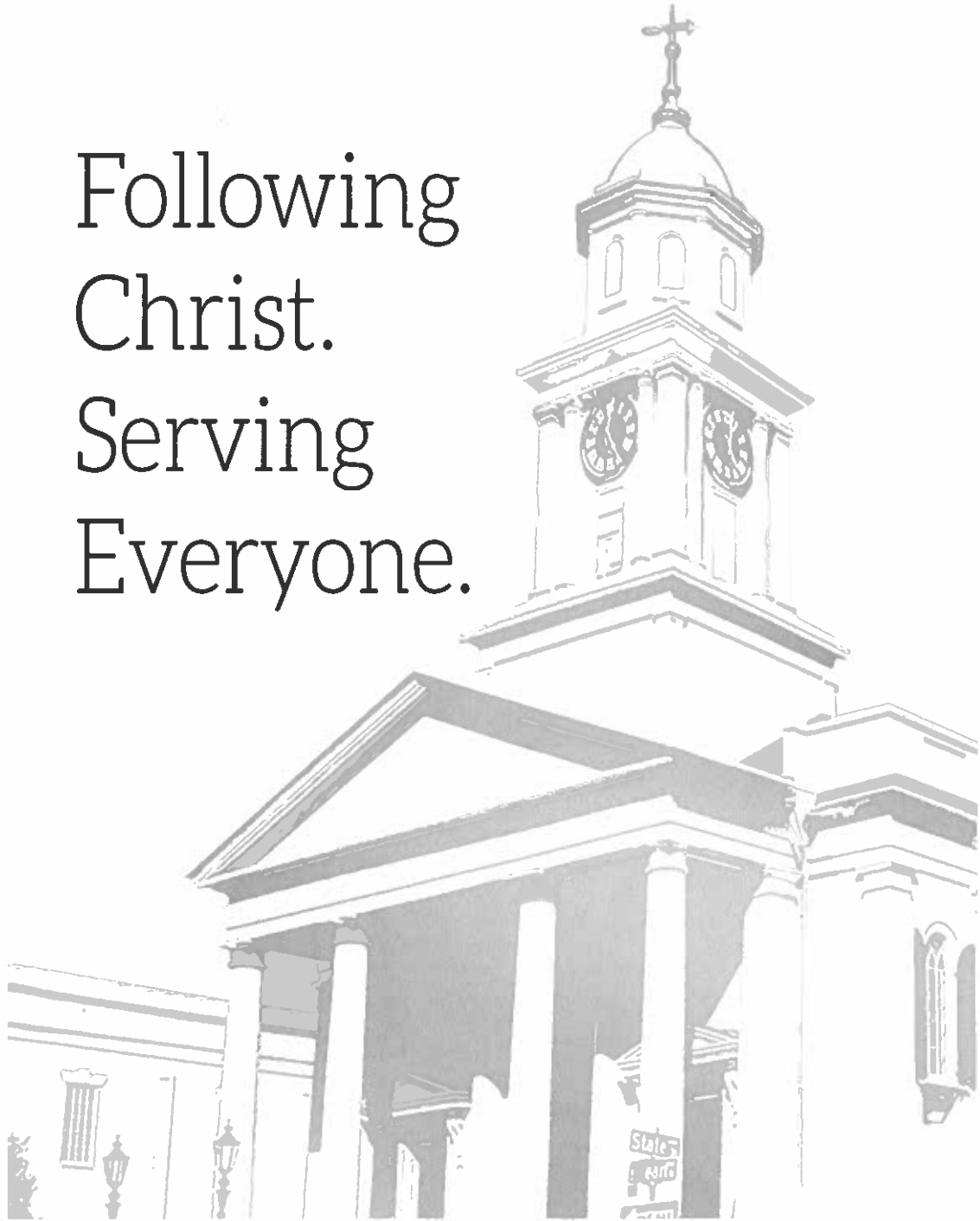




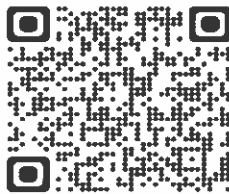
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



Welcome!

We are delighted you have joined us in worship at First Presbyterian Church Natchez. So that we might get to know you a little better, please take a moment to fill out a connect card by scanning the QR code below.



You may also send your contact information to fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net.

First Presbyterian Church Natchez
Morning Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church Jim Lessley
Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!

THE GATHERING

Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to worship.
Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude Largo from 'Serse' G. F. Handel

Welcome Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

Call to Worship Psalm 9:1-2

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

I will tell of your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you.

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High!


Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.



*Processional Hymn 361: *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

AURELIA



O Christ, the Great Foundation 361





1 O Christ, the great foun-da-tion on which your peo-ple stand
 2 Bap-tized in one con-fes-sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty-rants' hold is tight-ened, where strong de-vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo-ment glo-rious when he who once was dead


to preach your true sal-va-tion in ev-ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im-pres-sion, the sign of sec-ond birth:
 where in-no-cents are fright-ened, the righ-teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic-to-rious, their cham-pion and their head.

pour out your Ho-ly Spir-it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho-ly peo-ple gath-ered in love be-yond our own,
 there let your church a-wak-ing at-tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre-a-tion his heaven-ly king-dom brings:

to keep the faith un-bro-ken as long as worlds en-dure.
 by grace we were in-vit-ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram-parts break-ing, with you the vic-tory win.
 the fi-nal con-sum-ma-tion, the glo-ry of all things.



The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

Morning Prayer

Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession.

After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)*

Call to Confession

Thomas `a Kempis (c. 1380-1471)

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon our heart, there to remain so indelibly engraven, that no prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move us from your love. Be to us a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. **Amen.**

In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, you alone know how often we have sinned against you – wandering from your ways, wasting your gifts, forgetting your love. Have mercy on us. Lead us to live in your light and to abide in your ways for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Time for Silent Confession

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us
(Choir and congregation sing.)

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Response Hymn 581

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

* Greeting and the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

All: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

A Time for Young Disciples

Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Lessley, Reader

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 19:1-6

Pew Bible Page 81

Reading from Psalms: Psalm 118:19-25

Pew Bible Page 695

Reading from the Epistles: 1 John 4:7-21

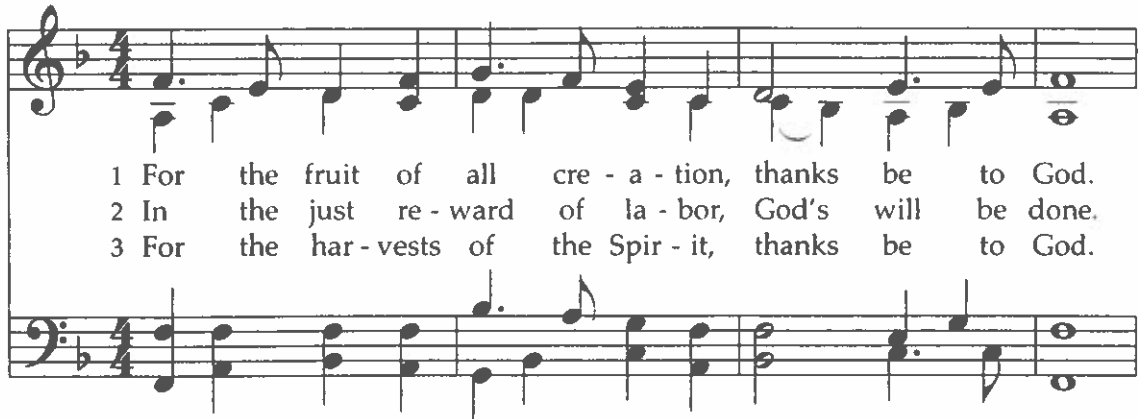
Pew Bible Page 292

*Gospel Hymn 36: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

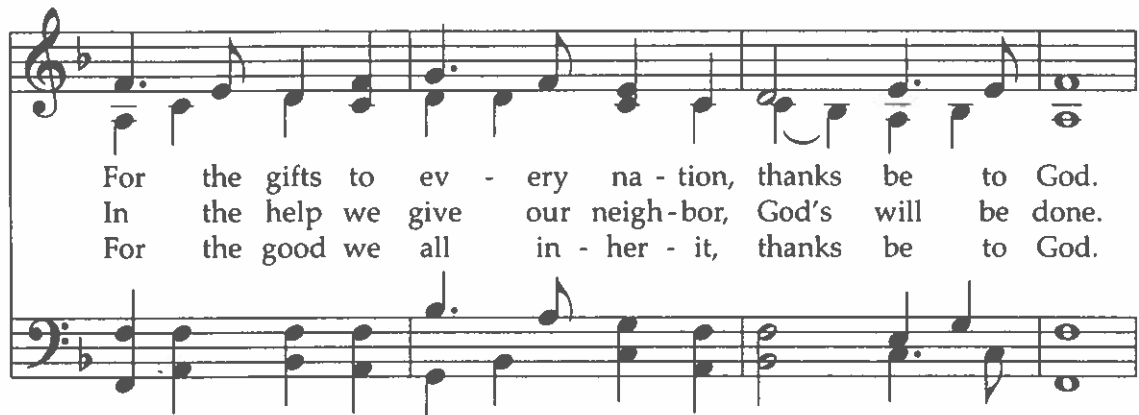
AR HYDY NOS

For the Fruit of All Creation

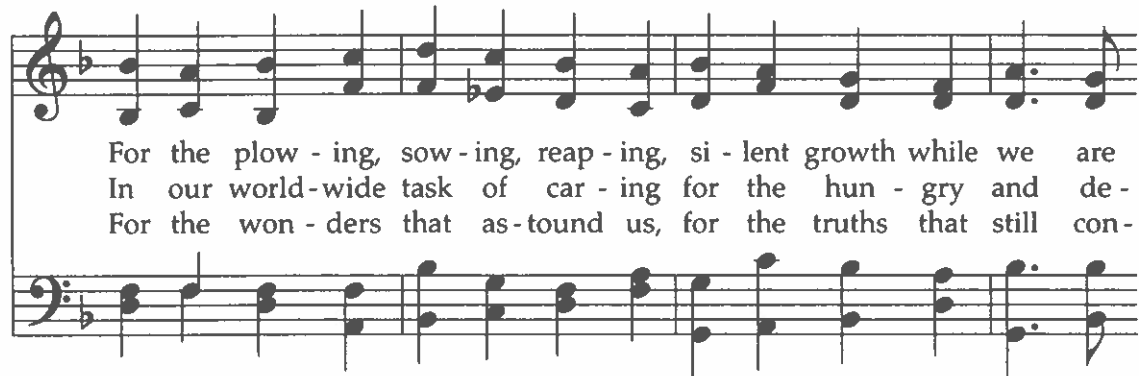
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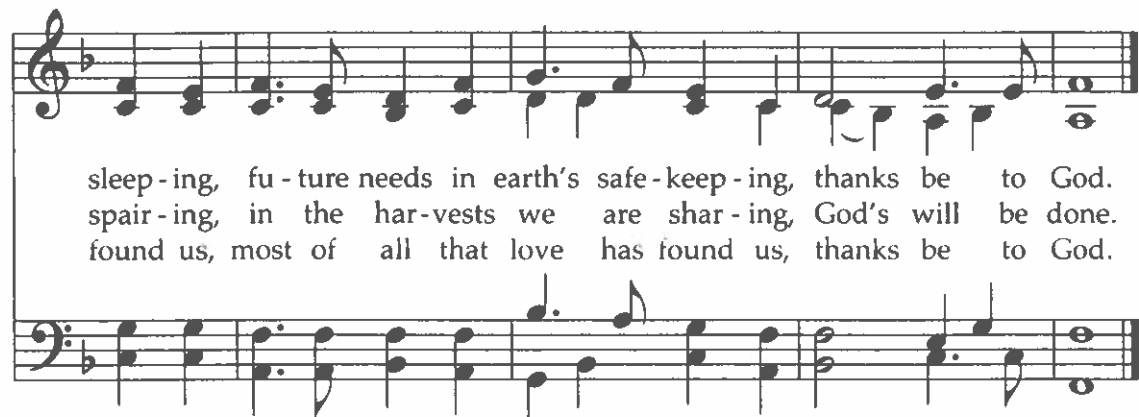
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Pew Bible Page 133

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Fear Can't Do That, But Love Can"

Rev. Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

*Apostles' Creed

Traditional

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Traditional

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

Offertory

I Am the Vine

Text: John L. Bell, based on John 15:5

Music: John Bell

I am the vine and you the branches. Prune and prepared for all to see:
Chosen to bear the fruit of heaven, if you remain and trust in me.

So let my joy complete and cheer you in whom my hope and kingdom lies:
Loving each other as I love you, savor that love which never dies.

Stay close and root my words within you: What you request, you soon shall have.
Until you carry fruit in plenty, nourished and fertile through my love.

*Response Hymn 609

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures high and low;

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit One.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

*Hymn 485: *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ENGELBERG

*Benediction

*Postlude Postlude from "Three Pieces for Whithycombe"

Philip Moore

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Irene Shields Godfrey by her family.

We Know That Christ Is Raised 485

Capo 3: (D) (Asus) (A) (A/G) (D/F#)
 F Csus C C/B^b F/A

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

(D) (A) (D) (E7) (A)
 F C F G7 C

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

(Am) (D) (G) (Em) (Bm)
 Cm F B^b Gm Dm

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3 4
 (Em) (D) (Asus) (A) (Em) (D)
 Gm F Csus C Gm F

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Beginning with an allusion to Romans 6:9, this exuberant baptismal hymn unfolds the implications of our incorporation into Christ's new life, making us "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The text was written to fit this expansive tune by a distinguished British composer.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is the famed *Largo* from the Opera *Serse* by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759). The Anthem at the offertory is based on the hymn *I Am the Vine* by Scottish composer John Bell (b. 1949). The Postlude is the last of *Three Pieces for Whithycombe* entitled simply *Postlude*, written by British organist, composer and choir trainer Philip Moore and dedicated to his mother and the organ at his home church in the village of Whithycombe, Somerset England.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Member: On Sunday, April 21, the First Presbyterian Session received Wayne Bryant Canon into membership. Please greet Wayne and welcome him into our fellowship!

Annual Church Picnic Next Sunday! Catherine and Everette Ratcliffe have invited us once again to hold the annual church picnic at Routhland. The picnic will be Sunday, May 5, right after the 10:30 worship service. We will gather under the oaks on the front lawn for food and fellowship – and for the cake auction. Please begin to consider what delicious dish you would like to bring to the picnic and, if you are a baker, please bring a cake. Proceeds from the cake auction go to the youth program.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Tuesday, May 7, at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group meets Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the church library. Come. Share. Be blessed.

Dinners for Six or Eight: A new program has begun at FPC. Groups of six to eight people are getting together for a get-to-know-you-better dinner! The get-together is not so much about the food but about the fellowship. Please give your name to Sally Fink, Beverly Hude, Sandra Burkes, Sammy Gore, Terrel Williams, Walter Tipton, Debbie Germany, or the church office (601-442-2581) if you want to host a dinner.

Pastor's Bible Study: Join the Bible study Tuesday, April 30, at 11 a.m., in the parlor in Stratton Chapel. Scriptures for this week's study are Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; and John 15:9-17.

Youth Meeting: Presbyterian Youth Group meets every week at 4:15 on Wednesday in the youth room in the Education Building with Rev. Caldwell. Come for Bible study, music, and food. Things are happening! All young

people from ages 10 to 17 are encouraged to come and join the activities and hear the plans for new opportunities coming up!

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Women in Ministry: First Presbyterian will welcome CBF Women in Ministry for worship and lunch at our church on Friday, May 3. This group is under the leadership of Rev. Brittany Caldwell. Please welcome this group if you see them on Friday. They will be in the church at 10 a.m. and then in Fellowship Hall for lunch.

Youth Camp-In May 3-4: Catherine and Everette Ratcliffe will be hosting our FPC youth for a "camp-in" at their home in Cranfield. We will leave the church at 5:30 on Friday, May 3, and return at 10:30 on Saturday, May 4. It is sure to be a great time of fellowship. For more information, please reach out to Rev. Chase Caldwell.

Wonderful Wednesday: Come for Wonderful Wednesday. Food is at 5:15 p.m. Bible study, led by Rev. Gandy, begins at 6: "Psalms: How to Live, Love, and Pray."

Handbell Choir: The Handbell choir meets at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, upstairs in the Sanctuary with Director Becky Jones.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir meets Wednesday in the choir room with Director of Music Vincent Bache III.

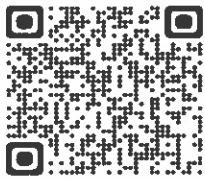
New FPC Text Message System: We are now able to send important announcements to the congregation using a church-wide text messaging system. If you would like to receive text updates from First Presbyterian Church, simply text *intheloop* to 601-300-6202. After you are enrolled, you can also send individual texts in reply that will be viewed and responded to regularly by Rev Caldwell.

TLC Food: Prepare a meal that is enough for two servings. Put it in a freezer container. Place a label on top of the container that says "TLC" and gives the date prepared; name of the dish (It can just say "beef stew" or "baked chicken") and your name as cook; write directions on the label for heating or cooking the dish. Please choose dishes that are simple with simple ingredients, not too salty or sweet. Place your dishes in the freezer in the hall outside the kitchen door in the education building for distribution to someone in our congregation when needed. And thank you! Call the church office with any questions.

Organ Update Fund: A fund-raising effort is under way to update and upgrade our beautiful organ at First Presbyterian by adding new instruments and rich new musical tones. Gifts may be made in honor of the organist and choir or in honor or memory of others. Every gift is important!

You may put a check in the offering plate, send or take a check to the church, use a generic envelope in the pew to give cash, or use the QR Code you find here (This is a different code from the one for general donations):

Give to the Organ Fund:



New Members Welcomed: If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let the minister know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

Monday Prayer: Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with others for people and things that are on each heart.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

Photo Gallery: Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. You may call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

Pastoral Visits: If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Contact the minister at 601-442-2581.

APR 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05	06
	Church Offices are closed for Easter break. Noon AA	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells 7 Ball Room Dance Class	8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wed. 5:15 supper 6 Bible Study Choir	5:30 Deacons meeting	Noon AA	Natchez Garden Club
Communion	07	08	09	10	11	12
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship 11:30 Luncheon and Wedding Shower	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 5 Session meeting 7 Boy Scouts Troop	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells 7 Ball Room Dance Class	8:30 Exercise 10 Rebekah Circle 10 Food Box distribution Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wed. 5:15 supper 6 Bible Study & Choir		Noon AA	
	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells 7 Ball Room Dance Class	8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wed. 5:15 supper 6 Bible Study Choir		Noon AA	Buddy Rhodes 10 Visitation 11 Funeral 1 Blooming on the River
	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship Blooming on the River	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells 7 Ball Room Dance Class	8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wed. 5:15 supper 6 Bible Study & Choir		Noon AA	Penny Murphy 11 Visitation Noon Service in the Sanctuary
Stewpot Sunday	28	29	30			
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells 7 Ball Room Dance Class				

MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
			8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wed. 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study Choir	5:30 Deacons meeting 7 Natchez Festival of Music Concert: Vincent Bache III & Ryan Stransky	10 Cooperative Baptist Women Ministers' meeting Noon AA 5:30 Youth Camp-in- meet at church	10:30 Return to the church after Youth Camp-In
Communion	05	06	07	Food Boxes 08	09	10
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship After service: Church Picnic at Routhland	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 11 Bible Study No Handbells 7 Music Concert	8:30 Exercise 10 Rebekah Circle Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study & Choir		Noon AA	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 5 Session meeting 7 Boy Scouts Troop	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells	8:30 Exercise 11:30 PW Luncheon Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study Choir		Noon AA	
Pentecost 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells	8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study Choir		Noon AA	
Trinity Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 10:30 Worship Stewpot Sunday	Memorial Day Church Offices & Playschool Closed Noon AA	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbells	8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4:15 Youth Wonderful Wed. 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study Choir		Noon AA	

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Pastor
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody
Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore
Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith
Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, and
Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Natchez, Mississippi 39120
601-442-2581

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